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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

# folio

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## They're ours, ours, all ours!

*Successful bid brings 2001 World Track and Field Championships to Edmonton*

By Dan Carle

To secure the 2001 World Track and Field Championships, the Edmonton bid committee relied on three former University of Alberta athletic directors to lobby, consult and ultimately thrust another feather in the civic and campus cap.

Ed Zemrau, Dr. Bob Steadward and Dale Schulha were instrumental among the 27-member Edmonton group in securing the championships for Edmonton, presenting an air-tight plan to the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) in Monte Carlo.

The championships will follow the 1978 Commonwealth Games and the World University Games of 1983 as a showcase for Edmonton and the University of Alberta and will attract some 3,000 athletes and 5,000 media from 290 countries between August 3 and 12, 2001.

The IAAF vote was a convincing 22-2. Canada was in a bid-pool with Paris and Stanford University. A delegation from New Delhi was scheduled to present, but did not.

Steadward, the director of the Rick Hansen Centre and a man with 30 years involvement in international sport, was bid co-chair, and spoke glowingly of legacy potential due to the IAAF's blessing.

"Now we've got an opportunity to develop some incredible facilities for our future university athletes. I've always been extremely motivated to do whatever I can, first of all, to improve the image and status and profile of our university, to increase and improve our facilities so our athletes can always be proud to train in the best environment possible."

It is expected the University of Alberta will benefit with a new track and field/multi-use practice facility, which



Dale Schulha (l) and Edmonton's Mayor Bill Smith share a proud moment at the Edmonton airport.

will be a second practice track during the games, plus new student residences.

The economic benefit of the games is pegged at \$286 million dollars for Edmonton alone.

The city's third international home run was no long shot. The Edmonton delegation, which included representatives from the three levels of government, presented a proposal that received IAAF approval after a deliberation period of just seven minutes.

"There is a lot of smoke and screens that go up around a lot of presentations around the world. And we just got right to the quick. We didn't sugarcoat it. I've never seen a group of people who virtually gave us a standing applause when we left—they were so impressed with our presentation."

Steadward suggested it was no contest. "We have a reputation of filling a stadium, and hosting events. Who could agree to host a Grey Cup and pull it off in less than a year? Who could sell out a World Figure Skating Championship in two days a year-and-a-half before the event? I could go on and on. The Universiade Games in 1983 were the best in the history of the university games, before and since our games. And so I think people recognize that."

"A lot of people on campus probably don't realize the magnitude of this announcement," said Dale Schulha, the director of development and alumni, physical education and recreation. He made his first trip as a bid-pitcher but has played a hands-on role since the Edmonton group began lobbying for the 2001 games in

Athens three years ago. Schulha's sentiment was also steeped in this school. "I feel like I've been a part of getting something back, something our programs really deserve."

The World Track and Field Championships is the globe's third largest international event, next to the Summer Olympics and World Cup of Soccer.

"There is a big pay-off for the city and a big pay-off for the U of A," said Edmonton city councillor Wendy Kinsella, also part of the Edmonton delegation. "They had never seen anyone take it so seriously in the history of this board. They have never seen such committed support from all three levels of government. We're going to be relying on the U of A to make these games happen."

The Edmonton group spoke from a restaurant in Monte Carlo seven hours after the announcement via cell phone. They were bubbly. "Once we got through the champagne and once we got through the wine, then we had some three different kinds of pasta, some turbot fish, and some shark and some swordfish, so we are in a great celebratory mood here. We'll make sure Monaco doesn't forget us," Steadward said. ■

### ON THEIR MARK:

- In addition to the new residences and practice facility slated for the U of A, plans include major renovations to Clarke and Commonwealth Stadiums. Site decisions on new facilities will be made by April 1999.

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# How high tuition?

## Government grants biggest factor in size of tuition fee increase

By Judy Goldsand

We all need to act now to avoid a maximum tuition fee increase in 1999. A coordinated effort by university students, their parents, faculty, staff and community groups is needed to convince the government that a larger share of the provincial surplus should be directed towards universities. That was the message senior administrators and student leaders shared with the 50 people who attended the University of Alberta's Nov. 10 Town Hall Meeting. The meeting was called to seek input from the university community about the funding dilemmas facing this institution.

There's not much room to move, said Glenn Harris, vice-president (finance and administration). Of the 1998-99 projected operating budget of \$317 million, 96 per cent comes from Alberta government grants and tuition. The remaining four per cent is revenue from investments, royalties and licensing, sponsorships, profit from ancillary operations (bookstore, housing and food services, parking services) and private support other than endowments. Although the U of A Campaign has almost reached its goal of \$144.65 million, it is not yet a source of much relief for the core operating budget, said Harris. Many campaign contributions are for specific purposes, and large gifts are usually given over a period of years.

Harris presented three preliminary operating budget scenarios to consider for 1999-2000.

A: A tuition fee increase of five per cent, with a 1.75 per cent increase in government grants, would result in a potential deficit of \$4,725,000.

B: A tuition fee increase of five per cent, with a three per cent increase in gov-

ernment grants, would result in a potential deficit of \$1,924,000.

C: A maximum tuition fee increase, with a 1.75 per cent increase in government grants, would result in a potential deficit of \$2,232,000.

Harris said a one per cent change in tuition, up or down, changes the budget by approximately \$750,000 while a one per cent change in government grants corresponds with a change of approximately \$2.2 million.

The option of an across-campus cut of one per cent would generate \$2.5 million, he noted, but this would be a last-resort scenario after making every effort to find other sources of funding.

Vice-President (Academic) Doug O'ram echoed Harris' message, saying the Board of Governors is trying desperately to avoid cuts across campus. Having instituted the biggest faculty renewal pro-

gram in the university's history, it's vital to show the cuts of the last decade are past, and that the institution is stable and moving towards growth, he said.

The board's first task is to eliminate a potential deficit of at least \$2 million and, secondly, to find the funding needed for new initiatives, said O'ram. The board has created a Revenue Enhancement Task Force with this mandate. O'ram underlined that potential cuts to faculties or maximum tuition fee increases are seen as unfavorable options.

Students' Union President Sheamus Murphy said tuition is the number one issue for students. Focused on efforts to increase government funding, Students' Union members are meeting with MLAs. One of the concerns they are raising is that the province's key performance indicators are biased against universities and should be changed.

Kim Speers, Graduate Students' Association president, said GSA members also are speaking with government representatives about tuition fees. She proposed a study of university accessibility to find out the extent to which high tuition fees are barriers.

Graduate student Julie Harris said the philosophy underpinning post-secondary education needs clarification both within the university and the government. Is a university education a public good, or a private commodity? In her opinion, a unified stance within the university on this issue would make lobbying more effective.

After two hours of discussion, there was agreement that the university's options are limited, and the best option for averting a maximum tuition fee increase and avoiding program cuts is to convince the government of the critical need for its increased funding. ■

## United Grain Growers invest in internship program

### Agriculture students given head start

By Geoff McMaster

A new internship program will enable students in the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics to finish their degrees on the job.

United Grain Growers is investing \$25,000 per year to give fourth-year students practical job experience over a 12-to-16 month period, helping them learn about the corporate world before launching into specific careers. The faculty is also hoping the internship program will help boost enrollment.

"The job market has tightened in agriculture in the last little while—with closures of elevators and chemical companies tightening up staff—so things like this internship program are going to allow you to get your foot in the door with a company that is very

progressive," says 23-year-old U of A grad Phil Tovell, hired by UGG to take part in its management development program last spring. "It provides me the opportunity to

see just about everything the company does," he says.

The UGG has already hired a number of U of A graduates and has agreed to recruit more students from the faculty as part of the program. At least two of the 10 students selected to intern next spring will enter UGG's management training program, where students will be introduced to a broad base of industry activities including sales, operations, administra-

tion and grain merchandizing.

"It's really encouraging," says internship program co-ordinator Kathryn Chan-

dler, "because a student can get a wonderful overview of what UGG does. Often students will come into an internship to help clarify career goals."

Chandler says UGG's investment represents the industry's growing interest in partnerships with the U of A as well as recognition of the important role they can play in training young professionals.

"They have a lot to gain from it because they get these students for 12 or 16 months whom they can train, and so often the students go back to [the company] after they graduate," says Chandler. ■

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## VP Academic not flustered by slip in Maclean's rankings

By Geoff McMaster

While the University of Alberta may have slipped a notch to seventh place in Maclean's annual university rankings Vice President (Academic) Doug O'ram says the drop is "no big deal."

"You've always got to take what happens in Maclean's with a grain of salt," he says. "It's nice when you go up, and unfortunate when you go down, but we shouldn't let it affect what we're trying to do."

The good news is the U of A remained first in the category of per-student library holdings and medical science grants, and second in overall library holdings. It also rose to third overall from sixth in the reputation category among schools with medical/doctoral programs.

The average entering grade of U of A students dropped, however, to 14<sup>th</sup> from

12<sup>th</sup>, a ranking O'ram says is unfair since Alberta high-school students are required to write departmental exams. Ontario students are not, and their grades are frequently inflated by as much as seven percentage points, he says.

"It doesn't mean [Ontario students] are better—there's just another standard of marking going on," says O'ram. "Our estimate is that we would probably have around the second or third highest entry grade if it was leveled, but we can't tell that for sure."

The U of A also scored low in terms of classes taught by tenured faculty, slipping slightly to 13<sup>th</sup> place from 12<sup>th</sup>. But O'ram says this category does not reflect the quality of education in a given institution, since it's possible to score higher merely by eliminating small classes taught by

sessional instructors in favor of large classes taught by faculty. In junior science and English courses, for example, classes are kept small to ensure a high level of interaction between students and instructors.

But one category that does concern O'ram is proportion of students who graduate, down four notches to 10<sup>th</sup>. But he also says there is no significant difference among those who placed between 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

"It's just one of those clustering things ...for the bulk in the middle it's all the same really," he says. He'd also like to see alumni support climb up more than it has, he says. The U of A scored 13, tied with Saskatchewan and Ottawa, up from 15 last year. ■



# Learning at home

## Opting out of public education

By Geoff McMaster

Home schooling was not an easy decision for Dr. David Hammond, a sessional instructor in the education faculty, and his wife Rosalyn Forest. They'd always believed in public education, and after a considerable amount of research, had enrolled their daughter Elyse in some of the most progressive programs Vancouver and Edmonton had to offer. Yet even at their best, says Forest, something vital was missing in the public schools.

"The things that disturbed us and saddened us in the culture at large were things that couldn't help but be reproduced in the school community," says Forest. What bothered her most, she says, was that young children in school were rarely encouraged to think critically, or reflect on the relevance of what they were learning. "Kids were developing a very strong sense of the meaninglessness of

Kids were developing a very strong sense of the meaninglessness of their own experience, and that was really heartbreaking to us.

— Rosalyn Forest

their own experience, and that was really heartbreaking to us."

So two years ago, when Elyse was nine, Forest and Hammond brought her home to "challenge ourselves to be more thoughtful about the way we're living our lives." Forest says she and her husband are both passionate about social critique and want their daughter to raise difficult questions without the pervasive, unrelenting pressure to conform.

Forest says she continues to feel ambivalent about the notion of retreat from community life, however, especially when she believes so strongly in democratic participation and social change. It was Forest's own mother who put the question to her most bluntly one day: "Why would you who care so passionately about the public world, and about the state our society is in, why would you withdraw in that way?"

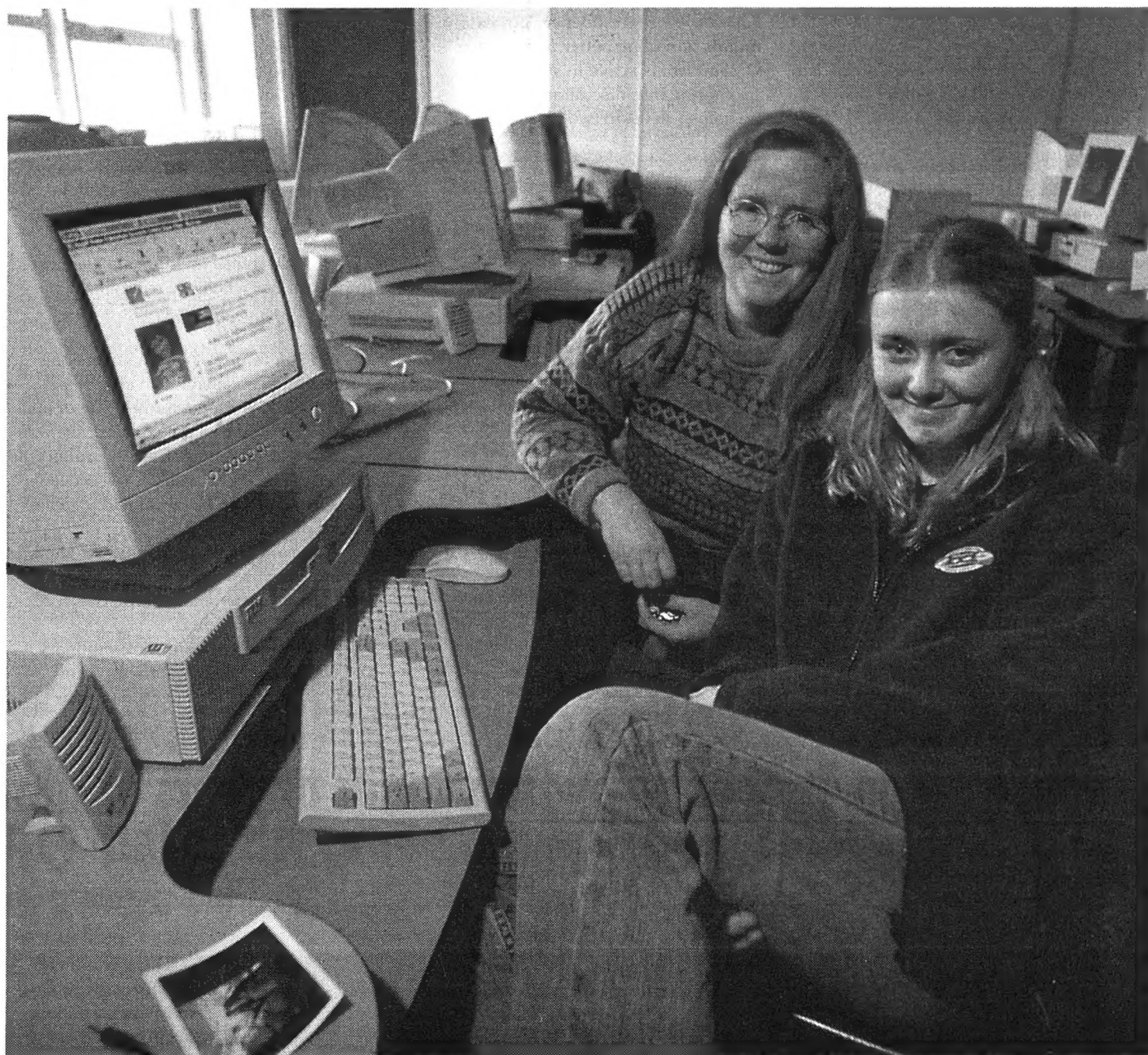
It's a question other home-schooling parents may share.

There are just over 8,000 home-educated students in Alberta, out of 500,000 students in total, and those numbers have remained fairly consistent over the past few years. According to Alberta Education regulations (now under review), parents of home-schooled children must register with an accredited private school and agree to regular monitoring and testing.

Parents must also submit a program of study to the school for approval, but it doesn't have to be based on the Alberta school curriculum, and this can lead to problems, says Alberta Teachers' Association spokesperson Denele Somshor-Walsh.

"We have some people home schooling who are using programs from the United States...some Christian fundamentalist programs coming out of Texas," she says. "It's not a problem if [parents] follow the Alberta program of studies, but we have some who are not."

Most worrisome, says ATA News editor David Flower, are radical groups such as the Home Education Corporation of Alberta (HECA), an organization claiming to represent 6,000 unregistered, home-



Maureen Crawford, with daughter Laura Oudshoorn at the Argyll Home Education Services Centre

educated children across the province. At a presentation to the Standing Policy Committee on Education and training last month, HECA president Dick Barendregt argued that "the Lord has appointed to parents the responsibility and final authority to secure, guide, and control the education of their children" and that "Christians, those who hold to the inerrant word of God, *have not and will not* enter into partnership with the government in the rearing of their children."

"In all fairness this has to lead one to question...what kind of education the students are being given," says Flower. "I guess it bothers me because I'm not sure that's what a democracy is all about. I do accept that everybody has a right to make certain decisions. Likewise if you want to be members of a society you have some obligations to that society and the way it operates. It bothers me when you have to take children away and isolate them for the sake of religion, because what are you afraid of?"

However Dr. Frank Peters, a professor of educational policy studies, says the dangers of home education are frequently exaggerated. The vast majority of home-educated students, he says, are not choos-

ing to stay home for strictly religious reasons: "This is not a rise of a neo-fundamentalist movement here."

One common argument in favour of public education is that it "socializes" children, helping them to function effectively in a community of peers. But Peters says too much is made of that argument, because the best environment for socialization really depends on the child.

For some, he says the public system may indeed do more harm than good. As any junior high student will tell you, it's certainly possible to feel alone and rejected in a crowd—hardly the best way to develop a strong public persona.

"Sometimes the experience of home-educated kids can be less than we want—heck, that's the way it is in our schools too," says Peters. "Don't get me wrong—I don't want to be in any way critical of our public or private schools. I think they're doing a fantastic job. But 8,000 out of 500,000 students isn't exactly time to man the lifeboats."

Peters adds that today's public is more educated than perhaps at any other time in our history, and many parents are so disenchanted with the recent downsizing of

It bothers me when you have to take children away and isolate them for the sake of religion, because what are you afraid of?

— David Flower

the educational system they want to have more control in their children's lives. In the end, however, it comes down to a matter of free choice and tolerance. We may not all approve of how some choose to educate their children, he says, but their right to do so must be defended if we believe in democracy and freedom.

"[The government] can't on one hand say the most significant educator in the child's life is the parent, and then turn around when the parents want to be the home educator and say, 'you can't do this because you haven't got the training.' It's almost like saying there's one true church and everybody has to belong to it, and anybody with a different view from that is aberrant or deviant or something."

For the time being, Forest and Hammond will continue to educate their daughter at home, more or less following the Alberta curriculum. Elyse also attends the Argyll Home Education Services Centre one day a week, a program supporting home educated children to which she submits a portfolio of work twice a year.

Together Elyse and her parents will continue to reflect on the life worth living. When and if Elyse decides on her own to return to school, Forest says she won't resist.

"I don't want to be protecting Elyse from things that are part of the world," she says. "I wanted very much to work within a public system. We believed in that, and I still feel that way." ■



# Paradigm shift in health sciences: team-centred learning turning heads

*Interdisciplinary initiatives unique in Canada*

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

A popular and inventive interdisciplinary health sciences course, offered only at the University of Alberta and part of a larger team focus, is quietly gaining attention across Canada.

Other universities and Health Canada are taking a closer look at Int D 410, which began as an elective with 25 students eight years ago. It currently involves more than 130 students and will have more than 400 in January as faculties begin to make it mandatory.

Int D 410 draws students from the six health-sciences faculties to work in teams with patient case scenarios involving family medicine, mental health issues and substance abuse. The future health-care professionals sit down "on the job" for a group assessment before they head out to the working world. It means everyone benefits from hearing an assessment from a nursing, nutritionist, pharmacist or medical point of view, to give a few examples.

"It puts the U of A at a big advantage for our health-science students because all of our students in the future will be graduating with interdisciplinary education as a component... I think that's a big plus for U of A grads," says Raheem Kherani. He's a third-year medical student and U of A pharmacy graduate who took the course last year.

Kherani says, "You're less hesitant to stop them in the hallway and ask a ques-

tion or clarify one because you know where their realm of expertise lies." Forearmed with this knowledge, these future doctors, nurses, nutritionists, therapists and dentists have a broader knowledge base and, more important, says Kherani, more confidence. Ultimately, it means providing better patient care.

Kherani is active in student groups promoting interdisciplinary initiatives and he helped develop two pilot projects in-

**We certainly can break down some stereotypes in terms of attitudes one profession may have over the other.**

— Dr. Don Philippon

volving hypertension and cardiovascular management. The first involved medical and pharmacy students assessing hypertension, while the cardiovascular case brought eight disciplines together assessing a patient with chest pains in an emergency room, at the pre-operative stage, then at the pre-discharge moment.

"We certainly can break down some stereotypes in terms of attitudes one profession may have over the other," says Dr. Don Philippon, executive director of the Coordinating Council of Health Sciences deans. And it's drawing the attention of

health-care professionals from other parts of Canada. Moira Bazin, Int D 410 program coordinator, says Health Canada has recently given money to the U of A to produce video teaching materials for undergraduate students and Health Canada employees.

Team-centred learning now includes clinical placements as well. Last spring, a group of U of A students headed to High Prairie and Slave Lake, Alta. for their practicums. The pilot projects included a pharmacy, nursing, occupational therapy and nutrition student. Former student Tonya Walton, now a registered dietician at the Red Deer Regional Hospital, says, "Everybody thinks their area is the most important but when you interview a patient, you realize this may not be the [case]."

In High Prairie, she remembers one home-care assessment at an elderly patient's home. Walton assumed fear of malnutrition would be a top concern; she was wrong. "The patient said safety around the house was key." As a result, the occupational therapist on her team had a greater role to play.

There are plans to continue the team clinical placements this spring in Central and Eastern Alberta and at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

What's next? More interdisciplinary collaborations like physiotherapy and medical students learning the muscu-

## INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH-SCIENCES INITIATIVES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

- Involve the Faculties of Medicine and Oral Health Sciences, Nursing, Physical Education and Recreation, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics, and Rehabilitation Medicine
- Will make Interdisciplinary course 410 mandatory for all undergraduate students in health-sciences programs by 2001; mandatory by Jan. 1999 for medical, dentistry and pharmacy students
- Include team placements for students in clinical settings and collaborative learning opportunities in other courses
- Are driven by: the Coordinating Council of the Health Sciences Deans (CCHS); Administrative Group on Interdisciplinary Health Sciences in Education (AGIHSE); and the student group ACHILI, Alberta Collaborative Health Interdisciplinary Learning Initiatives

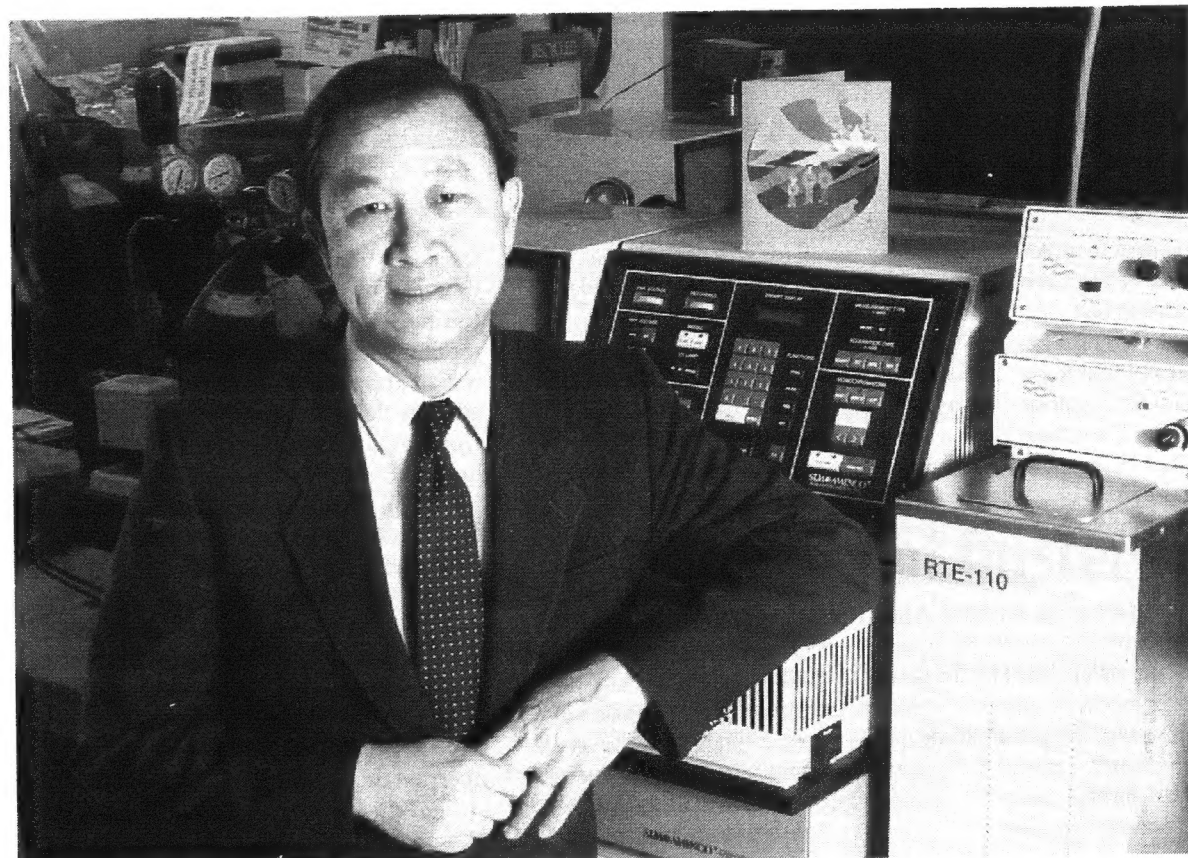
## » quick » facts

loskeletal block in medicine together. "It's a major challenge for the university itself," says Philippon. Stretching faculty resources and coordinating curriculum schedules for numerous disciplines can be a logistical nightmare, but everyone is prepared to make it work, he says. ■

# Chinese medicine honed by thousands of years of clinical trials

*Dr. Larry Wang describes the healing property of Mom's soup*

By Rich Cairney



Dr. Larry Wang

When Dr. Larry Wang was growing up in Taiwan, he learned all about Chinese herbal medicine.

"As a kid, I liked to go out and play in the rain and the mud and get as dirty as I possibly could," Wang says. When he got home, cold and wet, his mother would spring into action, cooking up a special soup to prevent her boy from catching cold.

"She would prepare a 'soup' for me: hot boiling water, chopped gingerroot and two or three teaspoons of brown sugar."

Did it work?

"Absolutely," said Wang.

"Ginger, we know, has many ingredients which can stimulate your metabolism, and sugar of course is the key fuel to allow the muscles to shiver, to heat you up." With this preparation, said Wang,—"with the hotness of the soup, a physical heat load from water, the ginger stimulating the metabolism and the sugar providing the fuel—you create a lot of heat to counter the cold."

Those childhood experiences with Eastern Medicine and his education in Western Medicine made Professor Wang uniquely qualified to deliver a Super Saturday lecture in September entitled "Chinese Herbal Medicine: Fact or Fiction."

Wang says there are shared similarities in the development of medical therapies among ancient eastern and modern western cultures.

The earliest written record of Chinese remedies was penned about 25 AD, and that writing represented knowledge developed over approximately 3,000 years, said Wang.

"We are looking at a fairly respectable and long-standing heritage," he said.

Over time, treatments that didn't work were abandoned and those that did work were fine-tuned. Both systems rely on clinical trial and error to determine efficacy. In the case of the Chinese herbal treatments, thousands of years of development represent an advantage.

"Time is a wonderful ally in any medical development or biological developments. Through time and clinical trial and error, the Chinese medicines had gone through a very systematic and functional and even rigorous selection process."

The earliest written record of Chinese remedies

was penned about 25 AD, and that writing

represented knowledge developed over

approximately 3,000 years

—Larry Wang

Professor Wang, who made international news during the mid-'90s with the development of the Coldbuster Bar—a power snack now marketed under the name Access Bar—said direct comparisons between herbal and modern pharmacological treatments can be made.

A person suffering from high blood pressure can be treated with a refined, synthesized prescription drug. Another person can be asked to drink a Chinese herbal tea prescribed to reduce blood pressure. The results in both cases may be the same: the patient's blood pressure drops.

"In terms of functionality there is very little difference in measurement of the end point. If you give a Chinese treatment instead of Western treatment both will be considered working properly."

The difference is that in traditional herbal treatments, no one knew how or why a certain therapy worked. In Western medicine, scientists are very particular about understanding how and why medications do the things they do.

Still, through reading ancient texts, Professor Wang is convinced his forefathers had some pretty solid theories, if not evidence, about the ways our bodies work and how medications affect them.

"The conclusion, I think, is that there is not very much difference, really." ■



# The year 2000 problem: fact, fiction and fear

by Dr. Jonathan Schaeffer, Department of Computing Science

With all the media hype, it's hard to ignore the dreaded year 2000 problem. We're barraged with updates, few (if any) of them positive. And we can expect this (mis)information to accelerate as we count down towards midnight, Dec. 31, 1999.

If you have been listening to these stories (and my hope is that you have not), you might be worried. After all, some of these stories portray an apocalyptic future. Should you be afraid? What is fact? What is fiction?

The year 2000 problem (often referred to by the acronym Y2K) is deceptively simple. Thirty to 40 years ago computer programmers took shortcuts with dates: they represented them with the last two digits of the year instead of the full four digits. Hence, 1999 became "99" and 2000 becomes "00." And, since many software packages used the date to sort data, the year 2000 now looks like the year 1900. Suddenly, payments owed in the year 2000 look like they haven't been paid in 100 years.

What caused this problem? It seems silly to have taken a shortcut when the real solution (using four digit dates) is so obvious. But not so long ago computer memory was very expensive. Instead of the few dollars one pays for a megabyte (millions of bytes) today, a megabyte cost thousands, even hundreds of thousands of

dollars, only a few decades ago. Many systems were limited by memory, so programmers took shortcuts to make everything work. Second, no one imagined software written 30-40 years ago would still be around today. At the dawn of the computer age, machines were the expensive component and software was "cheap." The industry quickly realized that it was, in fact, the other way around. People resources were (and still are) very expensive, so one did not rewrite a million-lines-of-code program on a whim.

Finally, because some of this code is so old, most of the people who designed and implemented these programs are gone, the documentation is scant, the programming tools used are obsolete (if they even still exist), and everyone is afraid to touch the program. If it's not broken, then don't fix it. That worked well for a long time, but not any more. You have two programming choices: fix it or rewrite it.

Most organizations and business have been aware of the problem for many years and are spending a small fortune addressing the problem well in advance of the deadline. If they do not fix it, the consequences to them could be fatal. Imagine being a bank in Jan. 2000 if none of your customers can access their money because of a Y2K bug. I suspect most customers would switch their accounts to another

bank pretty quickly after they'd stormed the doors to get their money out.

Despite many responsible people working on this problem, over the span of a few weeks I heard the following media reports:

- The U.S. military worries the Y2K bug could result in false information that could lead to the launch of a nuclear missile.
- An "expert" predicts the financial markets will collapse triggering a prolonged global depression.
- The Canadian military and local police plan to mobilize and cancel all leaves for the first quarter of the year 2000.
- Citizens fear there will be no electrical power on Jan. 1, 2000, and for months after.
- Alberta considers closing schools for the first few weeks of Jan. 2000 as a precaution against possible problems.

If we are exposed to this material on a continual basis, it's no wonder people become scared. Where is the good news? Why doesn't the media report on the year 2000 success stories—That many companies have the problem well in hand, that the University of Alberta started planning for the Year 2000 more than five years ago, and that the new software to rectify the problem is starting to be used for live tests.

So, why are we hearing all these stories that, deliberately or not, are scaring the average person? It is a sad commentary on society that bad news is news. Reassurance is not. Hence many media outlets have bombarded us with the latest dire predictions on the Y2K problem. None of them report on the reality that most things will work, come the next millennium.

In my opinion, the media hype about the year 2000 problem borders on fear-mongering. The media have a responsibility to present a balanced picture of the situation. To date, alas, this is not happening. Lots of responsible people are working on the Y2K problem and, undoubtedly, most will succeed well in advance of the deadline: When the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31, 1999, a few systems will fail. But it is too early to know which ones and how serious that will be. So, until the picture clears, relax.

Do not misinterpret my words: the Y2K problem is very serious. However, I believe most government and business organizations are responsibly addressing it.

So, what are my plans for midnight on Dec. 31, 1999? No, I am not stockpiling supplies. Nor am I buying a power generator or looking for space in a nuclear bomb shelter. I plan to enjoy one helluva party at the stroke of midnight, without any fear of what the future might hold. ■

## Alberta's fiscal policy makes the grade, say economists

*Health-status indicators have survived restructuring*

By Geoff McMaster

From an economic perspective, the restructuring of Alberta's health-care system has been a success, says Dr. Richard Plain, associate professor of economics.

Health-care reform has fared much better here than in Saskatchewan, he says, having survived deeper and longer lasting spending cuts without a loss in health "status." He presented his findings at a conference earlier this month on deficit strategies in Western Canada sponsored by the U of A's Institute for Public Economics.

Health status takes into account key indicators such as infant mortality rate, life expectancy from birth, potential years of life lost and the age/sex adjusted mortality rate. All remained constant or improved slightly during Alberta's downsizing phase. In Saskatchewan, the opposite is true, with health status moving from

above average to average on a national scale.

"One explanation [of these findings] is that if your new system works well enough—if you can get people out of inpatient care and into day surgery, into the homes and out of lengthy stays in hospital—if you can get those changes done fast enough while the money's being cut—it looks like Alberta was able to pull off efficiency gains."

Plain explains, however, that health status indicators gauge only mortality and do not take quality of care into account. "There are many dimensions to health care over and beyond what we were able to use," such as how long patients have to wait for surgery or hospital beds.

"But when all is said and done, we're not losing more in emergency than we

ever did, it's just a heck of a lot more uncomfortable."

In addition, Plain's study does not consider the huge transfer of health-care costs from hospitals to the home where many patients are now cared for. "There's been a lot of costs shifted from the provincial government on to its population, and there are no numbers on that."

He suggests it's now up to the people of Alberta to decide whether to put money back into health care to improve quality: "We're a wealthy enough region and nation to decide, if we want to, to put more money into those things. If we want a better quality health-care system, we have to be prepared to buy it and pay for it."

Economics professor Dr. Paul Boothe also examined Western Canadian fiscal policies in recent years, concentrating on

anti-deficit strategies. The big surprise is that, contrary to popular opinion, Saskatchewan cut spending in general more than Alberta did, with very little increase in revenue (only about eight per cent), says Boothe.

The common impression, he says, is that Saskatchewan combined cost cutting with revenue increases. The numbers in fact show Alberta and Saskatchewan were not all that far apart in their approaches.

"What it shows you is that when your back's against the wall, like Saskatchewan's was, ideology doesn't really matter very much," says Boothe. He says Saskatchewan was "driven to the strategy they used, because they had a debt crisis, they were down to triple-B bond rating and the wolf was at the door. They had to do it on the spending side." ■

## University to share \$19.8 million in research grants

By Geoff McMaster

The Institute of Biomolecular Design is just one of the big winners in the latest round of provincial research grants. Devoted to rational drug design, the institute received about \$4 million from the Intellectual Infrastructure Partnership Program (IIPP). Seven other projects also received part of a total of \$19.8 million in funding shared by the U of A and the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge.

The IIPP program, announced last year, funds up to 40 per cent of projected costs for labs and equipment and requires a significant portion of the research to be

funded privately and by the federal government.

The Institute of Biomolecular Design, involving researchers from the Faculties of Science, Medicine and Pharmacy, analyses how biomolecules interact with each other at the biochemical and chemical level. Findings will eventually allow researchers to come up with a set of rules for designing drugs, avoiding lengthy and laborious trial-and-error, says institute co-ordinator Dr. Michael Ellison.

"The problem with the way the pharmaceutical industry now works is that

...they'll create randomly thousands of different compounds, without any apparent rhyme or reason, and then test them in animals," says Ellison. "From that they'll choose the few that produce some sort of positive effect." The purpose of rational drug design is to understand the chemical rules allowing one to tailor "specific drugs to specific processes."

Ellison says the IIPP grant is only a small portion of the \$25 million needed to get the institute up and running, but it's an encouraging start.

Other projects sharing IIPP funding are the Multimedia Advanced Computational Infrastructure initiative, designed to create a world-class computational and networking facility; the agriculture faculty's "food for health innovations" project; molecular biology and biotechnology research; petrochemical and oilsands research, and an electrical and computer research facility, in the engineering faculty; the geotechnical and geoenvironmental cold regions research facility; and more space for the computing science department. ■



# Campaign leader a man of many sides

Associate VP retires to Kelowna—again

By Geoff McMaster

Dr. Terry Flannigan is regarded by most of his colleagues as thoughtful, reserved, even slightly intimidating at first. Having spearheaded the university's most successful fund-raising campaign ever without self-congratulation, he's the kind of man who knows what he wants and simply gets the job done.

As the campaign approaches its target well ahead of schedule, the associate vice president (external affairs) retires this month on a decisive high note. In the words of Dr. Roger Smith, vice president (research and external affairs), "his leadership, in conjunction with that of President Fraser, has raised the university to a new high standard in fund development activity," one that "will benefit university faculty and students for years to come."

In one way or another, Flannigan has always been involved with education. Born in Saskatoon in 1934, he became passionately interested in a number of sports in high school, hung out with a gang of friends who "knew where they were heading," then went off to the University of Saskatchewan to study math and science. He then went to Bowling Green State University in Ohio to obtain a master's degree in physical education.

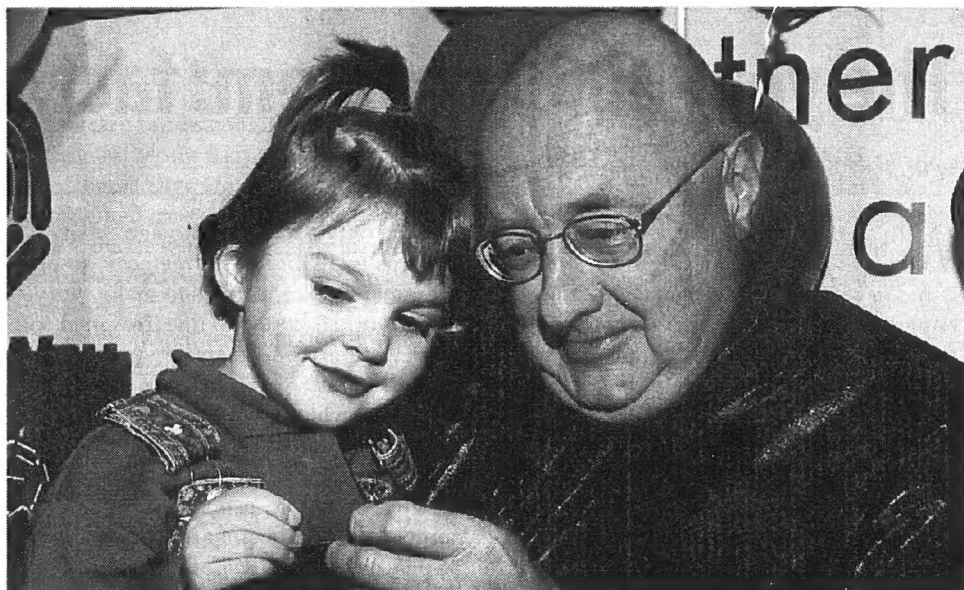
Flannigan's first job was with the fitness and recreation division of the Province of Saskatchewan in 1957. Soon afterwards he became the youngest person ever hired by the Saskatoon high-school system at 23. He wasn't much older than his students in those days but says teaching has always come naturally.

"It was a hard decision to leave the classroom and the coaching to go into administration, because you don't have that day-to-day contact with students...I looked forward to going to school every day."

In the late '60s Flannigan worked in the education faculty at Bowling Green State as both professor and administrator before returning to Western Canada in 1971 to join the staff of a fledgling institution, Grant MacEwan Community College. His career there culminated as vice-president of the college foundation, which raised more than \$15 million, not an easy thing to do in those days.

"He was really one of the leaders on the college side of fund-raising," says Karen Jacobs, who worked with him as communications director at the college. "Colleges have always been a little behind the universities, and it's a tougher market."

After serving as director of development for Okanagan University College in the early



Flannigan and three-year-old granddaughter Justine check out his new look to celebrate breaking the United Way campus campaign record.

'90s, Flannigan was appointed executive director of external affairs for the U of A in 1995, and promoted to his current position in April of last year. Shannon Zwicker, former development officer for the Faculty of Law recalls meeting him for the first time at her faculty's campaign meetings and being struck by his sensitivity.

"I was young, I was inexperienced and I was vulnerable to someone like him coming in and taking over. But he never did," she says.

Despite Flannigan's unprecedented success in the fund-raising arena, he staunchly refuses to lose sight of life's bigger picture, says development director Guy Mallabone. In every job interview, Flannigan can be counted on to ask one essential question: Where does your job rank in your priorities of life?

"The candidate, naturally, squirms in his/her chair and then proceeds with their answer," says Mallabone. "Terry's outlook is that your job should never rank higher than third place (right behind self and family)."

There's another side to this focused, poker-faced administrator, however, a playful side only a few have witnessed. According to Jacob, he's capable of pulling pranks with the best of them.

"I don't like marigolds," says Jacob. "Don't ask me why, but I don't like them. Every spring Terry would come over to the house and quietly plant marigolds in my garden. I'd wake up in the morning and here was my garden sprinkled with marigolds in all sorts of different spots, just to show me marigold season was back in town."

On another occasion, knowing of Jacob's vehement opposition to hunting, Flannigan borrowed a trophy deer head from a friend and placed it above her fireplace when she was out of town. "It was a major shock when we turned the lights on and lo and behold this dead animal with the glassy eyes staring at us! Yes...we knew right away who did this deed," says Jacob.

While Flannigan and his wife Mary Jane plan to settle down this month in their new home in Kelowna, it's by no means a sure bet his retirement will stick. He's tried it twice before, he says, and it's never lasted more than a couple of weeks. While he officially leaves his post this month, he's already agreed to fill in as acting associate VP until his replacement can be found. After that, the world is Flannigan's oyster.

"I have absolutely no illusions the man will retire," says Jacob. "It's not possible. He'll end up doing consulting." ■



Flannigan in the fall of 1951, playing football for Northern Collegiate Institute in Saskatoon.

## WHO recognizes Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research

by Lloyd Dick

Are you living in a "safe community?" If you're not, you may be before long. Chances are there's one in its formative stages near you, and now the University of Alberta is host to an organization that will help support and nurture this concept across the province.

On November 20, the World Health Organization (WHO) Safe Community Network raised its flag over the University of Alberta campus, as the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research (ACICR) officially became one of only three WHO Affiliate Safe Community Support Centres in the world.

The safe communities movement got its start in Sweden in the late 1970s. The idea was to involve communities in the development of their own injury prevention programs and local surveillance. After all, who knows a community better than the members of the community themselves? By combining this neighbor-to-neighbor passion for change with the latest injury control research and programming from around the world, the stage was set for a revolution in community-based advocacy to reduce injury.

This "bottom-up" approach to injury prevention planning resulted in a 27 per

cent reduction in injuries in a test community in Falköping, Sweden between 1979 and 1981. The Swedish success launched the movement onto the international stage, and recognition from the World Health Organization through the creation of the Safe Community Network soon followed.

Today, the WHO Safe Community Network has 39 member communities around the world, including Canada's only WHO Safe Community in Fort McMurray, Alberta. The efforts of these communities, as well as the applications to join the Safe Community Network from dozens more communities, are supported by the Safe Community Network's three Affiliate Safe Community Support Centres.

"In the last two years, injury control and prevention have been exploding on the World Health Organization scene," said Dr. Leif Svanstrom, of the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, who was in Edmonton to officially bestow the Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre designation on the ACICR.

"You have a wide undertaking in injury control," said Svanstrom. "I'm very happy you're adopting the safe communities model as part of that. With the new ACICR designation, there will be more

WHO Safe Communities to come in North America."

The designation is both an honor and a challenge for the ACICR, a provincial centre within the U of A's Faculty of Medicine and Oral Health Sciences, Department of Public Health Sciences, said Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti, chair of the ACICR's Advisory Body.

"The real work is just about to start. We need to make sure that things happen at the community level, and that we provide all the support we can to communities who want to work with us."

The ACICR is not the only active advocate of the safe communities movement in Canada. The Safe Communities Foundation, based in Toronto, has the same WHO Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre status as the ACICR. It has its own set of national membership criteria and raises funds from the private sector to support Canadian safe communities. To date, there are 15 communities in Canada—including Medicine Hat, Strathcona County, Lakeland Region and High River in Alberta—receiving support from the foundation.

Whether a safe community is recognized internationally by the WHO or na-

tionally by the Safe Communities Foundation, the basic philosophy is the same. The ACICR's job is to help communities find what they need to develop sound injury control strategies, said ACICR Executive Director Joanne Vincenten.

"We realize that research that comes from our centre and others in the injury control field will be key in helping injury control practitioners identify priority needs and develop effective injury control programs."

"But all the research in the world won't make our province safer without practical, community-based understanding, commitment and action on injury control."

As an Affiliate Safe Community Support Centre, the ACICR has hung out its "open for business" sign to the province in terms of community-based injury control. That invitation marks the first time injury control practitioners in Alberta have such an extensive array of resources available from one source.

"This designation is more than just a title to us," said Vincenten. "It is a responsibility we intend to honor—to help safe communities across the province reduce the toll of injury." ■



# Prolific composer one of Alberta's best loved artists

**Violet Balestreri Archer (b. 1913)**

By Geoff McMaster

Peers of Dr. Violet Archer say she cleared the way for female composers in this country at a time when they weren't taken seriously. But the prolific composer has no recollection of blazing that particular trail. Her feeling has always been, music doesn't recognize gender, so why should she?

"I was so deeply involved in music that I couldn't spend time worrying about not being a man," she says. "The fact was I seemed to get along fine with male composers and male musicians."

Archer remains as productive as ever at 85, with 330 compositions to her credit and more on the way. Since her teenage years, she has been thinking in notes and scales, always far too busy to consider details like marriage and children.

"Violet Archer has been one of Canada's most prolific and most performed composers since about 1950," says Dr. Fordyce Pier, chair of the University of Alberta's music department. "Her music is characterized by great craft and an often almost overwhelming intensity and intellectual rigor."

Archer began playing piano at the age of eight and supported herself by accompanying voice teachers from the age of 17. It wasn't until she went to McGill University to study music in the 1940s, however, that she got the itch to compose. The dean of the music faculty (also conductor of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra) tried to dissuade her from such a traditionally male pursuit but was obviously struck by her natural talent.

"I took my first orchestral piece to him, shaking in my boots," she told *Encore*



Violet Archer

*Magazine* in 1982. "He looked at it and said, 'Well, perhaps we (the Montreal Symphony) can play it'...I just about collapsed on the spot!" The *Scherzo Sinfonico* premiered in Montreal in 1940, marking the start of a brilliant composing career.

After graduating from McGill, she went on to study with two of this century's most celebrated composers—Bela Bartok in New York in 1942, and Paul Hindemith at Yale University in the late '40s. She calls this period of her life "miraculous," adding that, to this day, "a vivid remembrance of those two teachers comes to my mind frequently." She was deeply impressed

with Bartok's orchestral arrangements of Hungarian folk music and found him surprisingly receptive to her creative ambitions.

"He didn't terrify me," she says. "He was very pleasant and spoke very quietly." Archer would follow Bartok's example by drawing on native Canadian folk songs for her own orchestral pieces. In her personal favourite symphony, the 1987 *Evocations*, she incorporated Inuit and West-Coast native themes into alternate movements.

By far her most profound influence, however, was Hindemith. "She rather worshipped the man and everything that he had taught her," says fellow composer Dr. Malcolm Forsyth. "And she always taught according to the precepts of Hindemith at the U of A. Her music has that kind of sound—slightly hard-edged...while still very melodic, and traditional in the sense of rhythmic patterns. This really forms the central part of her work."

Archer worked at several U.S. colleges in the 1950s. Besides writing more than 60 works during this period, she also diligently promoted Canadian music south of the border. Returning to Canada in the early '60s, she joined the U of A's music faculty in 1962 and established a teaching

reputation every bit as impressive as her composition record. Her students use the phrase "tough love" to describe her pedagogical style.

"Entertainment and flattery were not on her agenda," wrote Dr. Brian Harris in a tribute to his instructor. "She was a strict disciplinarian, and fools, particularly lazy ones, were not tolerated gladly."

No doubt this recipient of six honorary degrees will be remembered 50 years from now for the "sheer weight" of her body of work, says Forsyth, which has so far been played in no less than 32 countries. She has composed symphonies, operas, choral pieces, songs, concertos, sonatas, and chamber music and has written for almost every instrument in the orchestra. Since the beginning of her career, she has also taken a keen interest in composing simple works for children, something not every composer is willing to do. She delights in the fact that two such early works, *10 Folk Songs for Four Hands* (1950), and *Three Scenes for Piano* (1946) are still hugely popular among piano teachers.

"So few composers will actually write a simple piece for clarinet or bassoon or something," says Forsyth. "Young kids who play these instruments never get to understand the idioms and language of 20<sup>th</sup> century music. So that's been a very big thing in her life."

As with all forms of art, it's perhaps too early to say what Archer's lasting legacy will be. It may take another 50 years, says Forsyth, for the world to rediscover the music that's touched so many Canadians. ■



## Holistic approach to saving the environment

**Killam professor tenacious when it comes to the environment**

By Phoebe Dey

When asked to describe Dr. Ellie Prepas, a recent recipient of the Killam Annual Professorship, a colleague easily comes up with several adjectives.

"Energetic," said Dennis Quintilio, director of forest management division at Alberta Environment Protection. "She has so much energy. When she's a bit down, she's normal. And she's tenacious and persistent. She pushes an idea until it's flogged."

Quintilio and Prepas worked together at the Sustainable Forest Management Network of Centres of Excellence, on the Terrestrial and Riparian Organisms, Lakes and Streams project (TROLS) and on the Alberta Forest Management Science Council.

"On the science council we'd have eight scientists," said Quintilio. "And on a 20-point scale, Ellie always had an idea that's a 25. She'd usually have a perspective no one else would have. You could count on her for some rather innovative thought and to go out there and push the envelope."

Prepas, an aquatic ecologist who has been teaching at the University of Alberta since 1979, researches environmental issues associated with surface waters and the plants and animals living in that habitat. She is the former program leader of the Sustainable Forest Management Network and has sat on many local, provincial and national environmental advisory committees.

It took Prepas until her PhD in zoology from the University of Toronto to acknowledge her love of research.

"I always loved the out-of-doors, but during my third degree I realized I could work with environmental issues and hopefully train younger people to work on them as well," said Prepas, from her part-time home in St. Leonard, Quebec, a Montreal suburb where she is spending the majority of a sabbatical year. "I grew up in the 1970s observing many issues of the day which didn't seem to be addressing the environment in a way that had the opportunity to make it better."

"The database wasn't there that required careful attention, and the era didn't seem to be dealing with the environmental problem on a holistic level by municipal, provincial or the federal government."

Prepas lives in Montreal with her 13-year-old daughter Natasha, who is a competitive synchronized swimmer attending a school for national-level athletes.

"She gets lots of opportunities to participate in a variety of things," Prepas said about Natasha, who whips her mother into shape if the professor ever falls behind in her recycling duties. "It's easy to let the habits loosen up."

While in Montreal, Prepas can check on three graduate students she currently supervises. Over her career she has watched a mix of 30 masters, PhD and postdoctoral fellow students graduate from her laboratory in the Department of Biological Sciences at the U of A.

While Prepas' accomplished résumé could fill a book, she does list one career highlight.

"It's the opportunity to work with a representative of the forest industry, Abo-



Dr. Ellie Prepas

riginals and the province of Alberta to try and build a scientific basis for forest management in the boreal plain," she said.

And when her nose isn't buried in a book, lake or forest, Prepas enjoys spend-

ing time hiking, swimming or skating. "If I'm not out exploring some new part of Alberta, I would be in my garden," said Prepas. "I love flowers and to be surrounded by healthy growth." ■



# Bringing the world's treasures closer to home

University of Alberta selected as test site for art database on the Web

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

Pull up a chair and pour another cup of coffee. It's time to let your fingers do the walking and take a cyber-stroll through New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Or perhaps the National Gallery in Ottawa. Or how about sauntering through the fine arts museums in San Francisco, Montreal and Boston?

All possible now for U of A faculty, students and staff thanks to the Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) data-

They may have been pushed into doing it

because Bill Gates has been doing various

things in this area. He published on CD images

from the Louvre and he has also purchased a

new, large stock-photography business.

— Michael May

base. The AMICO library is a digital dream of 20,000 works from 26 museums and institutions across North America wanting to make their holdings more accessible to the public for educational purposes. To test the database in its inaugural year, the consortium selected 18 universities in Canada, the US and the Netherlands from more than 80 applications for a one-year license.

And the University of Alberta was one of two Canadian sites chosen as test-bed participants because of its proposal to use the digital library with technology to enhance lectures (University of Toronto was also selected). The U of A is in good company—Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, Harvard and Princeton University were some of the other test sites selected.

So, want to compare Monet to Manet? De Chirico to Da Vinci? Log onto the AMICO database on the U of A's library Web site and get your mouse clicking.

Canadian art history students first used the AMICO library in Colleen Skidmore's Thursday morning class. "The noise level was so high," laughs the assistant professor, recalling the excitement in the room as students pulled up images, compared works side-by-side, and checked out various sizes of the art available on their computer screens. Through software developed by Academic Technologies for Learning, Skidmore was able to add more bells and whistles to AMICO and adapt it for her lectures.

"It's a big change," says Skidmore. With a password, students have access to Skidmore's online component and can print color reproductions of art for study purposes. That means they no longer have to book time to load and view slides. It's also accessible from home, day or night, so students have more control over their studying. As for quality, "I'm so im-



Allyson Merrison Paynter (l) and Marlessa Kuntz (r) can take full advantage of AMICO's library for their Canadian art history course.



Michael May, librarian and project coordinator for the AMICO library and Colleen Skidmore, assistant professor, art and design.

• The Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO) is a not-for-profit corporation of 26 museums and art-holding institutions across North America.

• The AMICO has produced a digital library of their collective holdings for use at schools, universities and public libraries for educational purposes.

• Currently, the library holds: 9000 works from Europe, including ancient Greece and Rome; 8000 works from North America, including Pre-Columbian art; 2000 works from Asia, including ancient Asia Minor; 400 works from Africa, including ancient Egypt; 65 works from South America; and 35 works from Oceania.

• Each work of art has a catalogue record, at least one still image, and a metadata record (for that image). Some works include audio files, Quicktime™ movies, and textual documents.

• It is expected the library will contain upwards of 250,000 images in five years and include museums and institutions from around the world.

• The University of Alberta was one of two Canadian universities selected as a test site for the first year of the AMICO database.

For further information:

www.amico.net  
or  
www.library.ualberta.ca/library\_html/  
databases/amico.html

» quick » facts

pressed," says Skidmore. "The quality is much beyond what I expected, and the large presentation sizes don't break down too badly."

But don't think one can have free access to the art for commercial purposes. The members of AMICO maintain copyright on their holdings. The library is strictly for educational purposes. Any other uses and the institution can have its license revoked.

"Our agreements with them are a social contract," says David Bearman, AMICO's director of strategy and research. "If they learn about violations of the rule, that users may not use the works commercially, they will act against those users or

lose their subscription rights. We prefer this social contract to technological means of control."

With the incredible access to art expected to expand to 250,000 works in five years, potentially from around the globe, you can be sure universities, and in future schools and libraries, will safeguard their license. At the University of Alberta, that's Michael May's job. Any questions about its uses are directed to him, as indicated on the Humanities and Social Sciences Web site. It's a license he does not wish to lose.

"AMICO is pretty much a bargain at \$10,000 US for 20,000 images," says May, liaison librarian for art and design, and classics, who points out the group behind

this is a not-for-profit corporation. "We've been quoted \$75 per digital image from a major Canadian museum. With pricing like this, the AMICO library would cost \$1.5 million."

It's a completely different way of thinking for many museums, to have their treasured works out there in cyberspace and vulnerable to misuse. But it's a fear they have obviously overcome, says May. "On the other hand, they may have been pushed into doing it because Bill Gates has been doing various things in this area. He published on CD images from the Louvre and he has also purchased a new, large stock-photography business," says May. "Just the threat from him made museums quite nervous."

Does this mean that turnstiles across the continent could grind to a halt because of images easily accessible on the screen? Just the opposite, says Skidmore. "My sense is this will encourage people to see things in person. It's great for people who can't travel. But there's always that group of tourists that moves from gallery to gallery."

Says Bearman, "People still line up to see the Mona Lisa, after all." ■

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# New textbook on government and business spares neither party

By Geoff McMaster

When discussing his new book, Dr. Allan Warrack is surprisingly blunt about the relationship between business and government in Canada. He says business simply "isn't doing enough" to fulfill its role in the social contract.

"Those being governed have a responsibility to take part in the governing process beyond just what they're asked to do, and that includes business," he says. "When business handles itself poorly with government, that not only hurts that business, it hurts society."

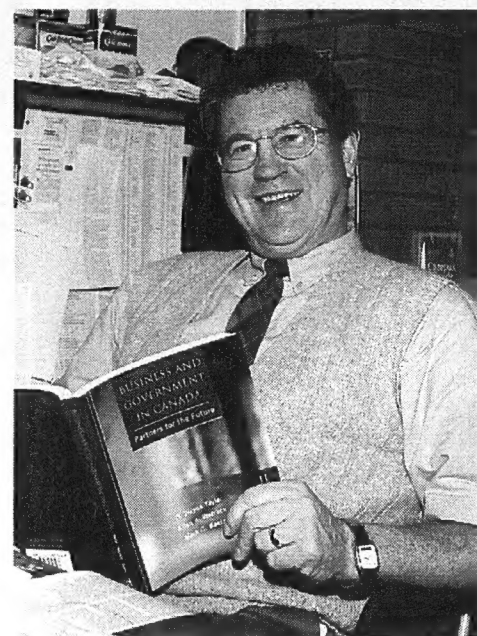
That may seem like a controversial position for a member of the business faculty, but that's fine with him. Any textbook worth its salt will encourage critical thinking by avoiding the muddy middle ground, he says. And so his new book, *Business and Government in Canada*, spares neither party in analysing an often uneasy relationship.

"Most texts that I've ever read are just so grey and dull and boring it's unbelievable," he says. "We really tried not to fall into that trap."

According to Warrack and co-authors D. Wayne Taylor and Marc C. Baetz, (from McMaster and Wilfred Laurier universities respectively), relations between the "two solitudes" of business and government have been deteriorating since the '70s, mainly because the two regard each other with growing suspicion and ignorance.

Intended for fourth-year commerce students, *Business and Government in Canada* aims to heal the rift, partly by demonstrating that confederation has always relied on a strong partnership between the two. The second chapter, for example, begins with a telling quotation from then Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau in 1976.

"The free market system, in the true sense of that phrase, does not exist in Canada ... the fact is that for over 100 years, since the government stimulated the building of the CPR by giving it Crown land, we have not had a free market in Canada, but a mixed economy—a mixture



Dr. Allan Warrack

of private enterprise and public enterprise."

Warrack says this "mixed economy" has always been a "delicate balance between working together and being unduly cozy." But the schism is now so great, he says, that much economic and social value is lost.

Apart from an historical analysis of Canada's "mixed" economy, *Business and Government in Canada* includes 10 recent case studies, from the automobile industry in Ontario to the BC forest alliance to the privatization of Edmonton Telephones Corporation. There is also a how-to component showing students how to make government and business work together most productively.

Developed from course material, the text is designed to meet an obvious need in the classroom, says Warrack.

"The idea was to come together and make something better than what was available in Canada right now...we wrote it not so much because we wanted to but because it was necessary."

## Survey finds students want more computer labs and upgrades

By Roger Armstrong

A recently released student survey conducted by U of A Learning Systems and the University of Alberta Students' Union sheds light on student attitudes toward technology in the classroom.

*University of Alberta Student Technology Survey*, conducted in September, questioned students from across faculties. In it, students ranked increased access to student services via the Web, more computer labs and upgraded equipment and software as their top priorities.

One of the more surprising results was the number of students who have access to technology says Kathryn Andrusky, vice-president academic, Students' Union. "When you tabulate those who have a personal computer or access to one through a friend or parent...98 per cent of students have some form of access," she says.

The survey results indicate that 67 per cent of students feel it is essential to have access to a computer to obtain better grades. The majority does not feel the university provides adequate information about what kind of computer to buy, however. This is something that Dr. Doug Owrap, vice-president academic and provost wants to improve on. "Our job is

to help guide students by giving them and their parents guidelines for buying computers," says Owrap.

On the issue of mandatory computers for programs, Andrusky says, "45 per cent of students agree that requiring students in their program to buy or lease a computer would have discouraged them from enrolling in that program."

That scenario, says Owrap, is 10 to 20 years away. The introduction of technology into the classrooms must be done gradually, he says. The first thing is to ask faculty to adjust their teaching in such a way that they can use the powers of the computer or the Internet, he says.

"The other thing we found out from Acadia, because they did this, [made laptops mandatory] is you don't want the students to be too far ahead of the faculty," says Owrap. The skill level of students is still changing year by year, he says.

Andrusky says the report has been circulated to deans, chairs and those interested in technology on campus and hopes to get it out to students soon. She hopes administration will take the findings into consideration during the upcoming budget planning.



# Faculty of Business heads for the hills—in the Andes

Partners with Grant MacEwan Community College for South American recruitment

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

It's a partnership to attract more of our "Rocky Mountain" cousins in the Southern Hemisphere to the north. The University of Alberta's Faculty of Business has teamed up with its counterpart at Grant MacEwan Community College (GMCC) to promote a seamless university-transfer program in business to students from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile. About 30 spots will be available for South American students who maintain a GPA of at least seven to enter the U of A's business program in their second or third year.

"We're working for mutual benefit because both institutions want to attract more international students. It opens doors to send our students for exchanges," says Dr. Michael Percy, U of A's dean of business, who says he was approached by GMCC to help provide more options to their recruitment strategies. "People [in South America] wanted something that leads to a university degree," says Percy.

Working closely with the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in Ecuador, GMCC business dean Tom Collier says students and parents there are "already looking northward" for educational opportunities. "They are certainly open-minded to alternatives," says Collier.

Where they look first are American institutions, says Collier. GMCC's recruitment trips earlier this year found a significant number of parents who had some education in the U.S. With first-year tuition at Boston University starting at \$18,000 US, Collier wants to persuade families to look at Canadian options. And he has a solid dollars-and-cents argument

for them. "We're saying, 'We can offer you an equally beneficial educational opportunity and cultural experience for one-third the money.' Anyone with business acumen has to look at this and say, 'Hmm...that's interesting.'"

And with numerous Canadian companies established in South America (Finning, Nova Corp., TransCanada Pipelines, Enbridge) many employees will be looking for post-secondary opportunities for their offspring. It's also a good base to tap into scholarship funds for future students, says Collier.

"Grant MacEwan and U of A can offer these students a safe environment in a safe city and an education of a quality they can get in the U.S.," says Collier.

Andean recruitment benefits flow both ways, adds Percy. "When we look south, we see a lot of opportunities for exchanges. We'd like to build a good many contacts." These countries have strong energy sectors as well. It makes for an easy transfer of skills, says Percy.

The business faculty is also working with GMCC's Asian recruitment program, says Percy, emphasizing these partnerships reinforce the cooperative basis of Campus Alberta. And when the U of A's business faculty goes recruiting, it includes promoting GMCC and the university-transfer system. "If students want to go to college, we want them to come to Alberta," says Percy.

The first students from the Andean-Alberta recruitment could be at GMCC by September, 1999. ■

## Grad students want more money

GSA salary negotiators hope report gets the point across

By Roger Armstrong

"We shouldn't be just cheap labor for the University," says Julie Harris of the Graduate Students' Association (GSA). Harris, chief negotiator on funding for graduate students, is armed with a report entitled *The Time For Action: An Investigation of Levels of Graduate Student Funding at the University of Alberta, 1973-1998* as she enters into salary negotiations with university administration next month.

The report, released Nov. 19, says the minimum salary for graduate research and teaching assistantships has increased 266 per cent since 1973 while tuition and other fees have increased 520 per cent. The number of possible full appointments has decreased 15 per cent. "Most graduate students are forced to work an additional 15 to 20 hours a week due to their low income," says Kim Speers, president of the GSA.

Those graduate students fortunate enough to get a full appointment (working 12 hours a week) are surviving on \$9,320 a year. However, the actual average salary for graduate students in the 1990s at the U of A is \$7,144 (based on an average of just under nine hours work a week.) The differential fee paid by foreign graduate students makes it especially hard on them, says Paul Martin, author of the report.

According to the report, we have fewer faculty than in 1973, but student enrolment is up 98 per cent. Martin says graduate students are bearing the larger class sizes. "Graduate students can barely survive, enrolment is increasing, and we have fewer faculty than we did 30 years ago. So I think this points out precisely how absurd it is for us to be talking about building athletic facilities on the university

farm when we don't have enough faculty to run the university. Graduate students are being essentially exploited as a means of cheap labor to make up for the shortfall of the faculty," says Martin.

Dr. Doug Owram, vice president academic and provost, says that the university is sympathetic to the graduate students' situation. He says both professors and students have had to adjust as government funding has declined. "On the other hand, graduate assistants can be a win-win situation when you are short of faculty. They can provide support to the faculty to make it possible to teach the larger classes; they can get employment and gain valuable experience that will help make them marketable when they come out," Owram says.

According to Martin, some graduate students are getting the majority of their food from the food bank due to a lack of funds. "There are many graduate students who get paid \$10 an hour. That is the same amount Mike Harris paid to get streets kids off the streets of Toronto when they were squeegee cleaning people's cars, and I just thought that was absolutely deplorable," says Speers.

The GSA hopes to negotiate a raise in the minimum annual salary for graduate students to \$12,000.00 per year and increase the number of appointments available. Martin says the GSA felt it was lacking hard data showing graduate students are under funded, but with this report, he feels they have the proof they need.

He's optimistic their point will be heard. "The ultimate point of this report is not to criticize the university or the government; it's to open up discussion," says Martin. ■

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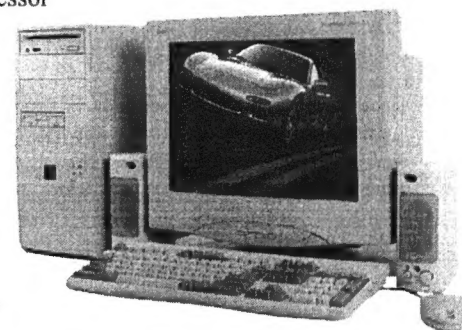
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# Premier congratulates dentistry

Premier Ralph Klein was the bearer of good tidings when he addressed some 200 members of the dental community and their guests at an Edmonton banquet November 4, celebrating 80 years of dental education in Alberta at the U of A.

He announced his government would contribute \$100,000 towards setting up a dental simulation laboratory and towards the design and fabrication of dental restorative materials.

He also announced funds required to support the clinical services within the general practice dental residency program at the University Hospital, \$150,000 per annum, will be provided by the Capital Health Authority.

In keeping with the history of dentistry at the university, the premier said this is a time to recall that not long ago there were concerns there wouldn't be an 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary to celebrate. He referred to Quality First, a U of A paper which surfaced early in 1994 outlining 15 proposals of how the university might respond to the government's decision to cut back on public funding of secondary education in the province. The first of the proposals was to close the dental school and save \$7 million.

The premier said that at that time, the late Paul Wacko and other members of the Board of Governors came to the rescue, strongly supported by the Alberta Dental Association. Dentistry became Oral Health Sciences in the new Faculty of Medicine and Oral Health Sciences "and the rest is history."

"The university's administration can be justifiably proud of what Associate Dean Wayne Raborn has accomplished with his budget over the past few years," said Klein. In this regard, the premier said he was particularly pleased that the funding for the general practice dental residency program was now in place "on an ongoing basis."

Klein said U of A President Rod Fraser had recently informed him the U of A is now the leader in Canada when it comes to partnerships with industry. Klein cited Sony Canada's recent generous gift of telehealth equipment and technology, which positions the dental school in a worldwide broadcast network. Telehealth, the premier said, is a new tool for dental educators and for those who deliver oral health care, the potential of which is "mind-boggling."

## The secret meaning of movies

By Rich Cairney

Seen any good movies lately? You probably have. You've probably seen some real dogs, too. That seems to be the pay-your-money-take-your-chances nature of big-screen entertainment.

So why do we watch movies? Do they mean anything?

That's the question Dr. Bill Beard posed when he took the podium as a lecturer during the University of Alberta's Super Saturday in September. But Beard, a Professor of Film Studies in the Faculty of Arts, almost immediately grew to regret the title of his speech: Do Movies Mean Anything?

Today's movies, on the other hand, acknowledge to the viewer, in some way, that they are movies. The inevitable happy ending is one such signal. And that signal teaches viewers that they are unable to deal with the truth.

"We are in a double bind as a mass audience. We can no longer believe in the happy ending, but we can't stand to look at the alternative; we can't be taken for suckers anymore and movies need to navigate between being sappy and too innocent or anything approaching being a bad time for the viewer—anything really thought provoking."

*Forrest Gump* is Hollywood's gift to me, to prove the point. He is wonderful, to be admired,

to be envied because he doesn't know—because he is stupid. His damage is better than

your wholeness, which is nothing but a pain to you. — Bill Beard

The simple answer, in a nut shell, is that "sometimes they do and sometimes they don't," he said. "But that's the joke answer because it's a joke question."

All movies tweak our emotions and so all movies mean something. But today's movies are not about what they purport to be about, he said.

"*Jurassic Park* is not about dinosaurs, *Twister* isn't about twisters—they are about something else. What *Twister* means is that you want to watch cows flying through the air. It is a love story in a derisory, second-hand way. Imagine going to see *Twister* without the tornadoes or *Jurassic Park* without the dinosaurs. How to deal with a velociraptor is not a life skill that's necessary today."

Both movies, he says, are about special effects. But in the same way it took years to develop these special effects, it took time for this facade to develop, as the culture it mirrors changed. Movies of the 1930s were different because people decoded them differently.

"They (movies) were unrealistic and implausible and over-simple and all the other things Hollywood movies always have been, but you had to receive them directly. There wasn't a whole lot of irony. They were straightforward."

Sometimes, movies provide Beard with a smoking gun.

"*Forrest Gump* is Hollywood's gift to me, to prove the point. He is wonderful, to be admired, to be envied because he doesn't know—because he is stupid. His damage is better than your wholeness, which is nothing but a pain to you."

It all sounds rather pessimistic. But there are counter-arguments and contradictions all over the place. Beard knows that, from time to time, a really great movie comes along and tells a story the way it should be told—honestly.

"Movies have always promised you that life consists of fixable problems but people don't really believe this. But there are lots of other kinds of movies out there that don't behave this way, namely *The Sweet Hereafter*, which is a movie that tries to address how screwed up life is."

The nature of Hollywood's blockbuster hits may change, he says, but only as our culture changes.

"The movies have changed over time because the culture has changed. And the movies will always reflect what goes on in a culture."







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### ARTS

December 4, 9:30 am

Ehud Ben Zvi, Colleen Skidmore, Ann McDougall, & Gerry Boychuk, "Technology in the Classroom: Effective teaching strategies that incorporate technology." L-3 Humanities Centre

December 4, 11:00 am

"Technology in the Classroom: Hands on Q&A session on using portable and Smart Classroom Equipment." L-3 Humanities Centre.

### BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENTAL SEMINARS

December 3, 4:00 pm

Christopher Buddle, "Natural history, population dynamics and competitive interactions of wolf spiders in a mixedwood forest in Alberta." Tory Breezeway 1

December 11, 2:30 pm

Edwin Cossins, "In pursuit of plant folates: a 34-year saga." Room 128, Physics V-Wing

ECOLOGY

December 4, noon

Claudio Celada, "Patch occupancy, territory quality and spatial structure in yellow warbler." G-116 Biological Sciences Building

December 11, noon

Ian Jonsen, "Linking individual movement to landscape-level patterns of distribution: chasing damselflies hither and yon." G-116 Biological Sciences Building

MOLECULAR BIOLOGY & GENETICS RESEARCH GROUP

December 4, 3:30 pm

George Mackie, "Do the ends (of RNA) justify the means: the roles of endo and exoribonucleases in catalyzing mRNA decay in Escherichia coli." Sponsored by the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AFMR). G-116 Biological Sciences Building

PHYSIOLOGY & CELL DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY

December 2, noon

Marek Michelak, "Endoplasmic reticulum proteins and cardiac development." B-105 Biological Sciences Building

December 9, noon

Doug Wylie, "What goes on in a Pigeon's Head During Head-bobbing? or Optic Flow Analysis in the Brainstem." B-105 Biological Sciences Building

December 16, noon

Doug Syme, "The Need for Speed! Consequences of being fast and faster in skeletal muscle." B-105 Biological Sciences Building

### BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

December 16, 5:30 pm

John Tyberg, University of Calgary, "Wave Intensity Analysis - A New Approach to Hemodynamics." 231 Civil & Electrical Engineering Building

### CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES

December 7, 3:30 pm

John-Paul Himka, "On the Left-Hand Side of God: Condemned Peoples in Ukrainian Icons of the Last Judgement." 352 Athabasca Hall

### CELL BIOLOGY

December 11, noon

Jacques Paiement, Université de Montréal, "Role of p24, p97 and coatamer protein in endoplasmic reticulum membrane dynamics." Seminar Room 5-10 Medical Sciences Building

### CENTRE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION STUDIES

December 8, noon

Karen Andres, "A Narrative Inquiry into Understanding Female Adolescence and Anorexia." Classroom A, Walter MacKenzie Health Sciences Centre 2F1.01

### CHEMICAL & MATERIALS ENGINEERING

December 3, 3:30 pm

Jan Czarnecki, Syncrude Canada, "Application of Colloid and Interface Science to Bitumen Recovery from Oil Sands." 343 Chemical & Materials Engineering Building

### EARTH & ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

December 1, 12:30 pm

Martin Sharp, "Glacial meltwaters, strontium isotopes and the weathering history of the continents." M-137 Biological Sciences Building

### ENGLISH

December 1, 7:30 pm

Kristjana Gunnars, "Pensive Nude' On the Writing Life." Orlando Books (10123 Whyte Avenue)

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VICTORIA PROPERTIES - knowledgeable, trustworthy, realtor with Edmonton references. Will answer all queries, send information, no cost/obligation. "Hassle-free" property management provided. 250-383-7100, Lois Dutton, Duttons & Co. Ltd. #101 - 364 Moss Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 4N1 WINDSOR PARK, \$229,900. Older 1700' bungalow, spectacular 75'x170' lot on Edinboro Road. Immediate possession. Ed Lastiwka, Royal LePage, 431-5600.

BELGRAVIA - 11511 - 78 Avenue, 1765'. Quality restoration. Confirm by viewing. \$230,000. Call 430-1867.

TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT CONDO in Garneau Manor, 10732 - 86 Avenue. Perfect location for University personnel, students or investment opportunity. Excellent condition, beautifully upgraded carpets, paint, lighting, appliances and mirrored closet doors. Twenty one units in building. One stall with plug-in. Please call Ann Dawrant, Re/Max, 438-7000.

REAL ESTATE listed and sold with sincere professional expertise. Unique properties from \$130,000. Call Liz Crockford or Denise Rout, Re/Max, 438-7000.

### ACCOMMODATIONS WANTED

HOUSESITTER: mature, non-smoking grad, pets welcome, housesitting references. Letter of agreement, Mark, 455-4351.

UA GRADS, 6 adults, want housesitting for Xmas holidays. Excellent references. 505-368-3143 collect.

### GOODS FOR SALE

CASH PAID for quality books. The Edmonton Book Store, 433-1781.

POTTERY BY AKIKO KOHANA - Sunday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 12512 - 66 Avenue.

### SERVICES

TECH VERBATIM EDITING - APA, Chicago; medical terminology; on campus. Donna Maskell, 922-6263.

HOME CLEANING - Hardworking, bonded staff. Reasonable rates. Able Maids, 433-9697.

DAVID RICHARDS CARPENTRY. Certified journeyman, NAIT. Complete interior/exterior, residential, commercial renovations including plumbing/electrical. No job too big/small. References available. 436-6363.

ACUPRESSURE - a restful and restorative experience is provided by Gary Holdgrafer, registered practitioner (JSDF, BCATA) and member of UA academic staff. It is covered in UA benefit plans for academic and support staff. Call 452-8251.

CREATE.DOCX EDITING - Scientific, medical, academic. Six years academic editing experience. E-mail, fax, disc. Regular and expedited service. Barb Every, (403) 418-1969; create.docx@home.com

### MISCELLANEOUS

JUNGIAN ANALYST candidate in training with C.G. Jung Institute, Zurich, has openings. Call Marlene Brouwer, 463-5422.

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# events

## HEALTH ETHICS

December 11, noon  
Glenn Griener, "Futility in Bioethics." 227  
Aberhart Two (2nd floor, 8220-114 Street)

## PERINATAL CLINICAL RESEARCH

December 1, noon  
Kathrine Peters, "Carrying out clinical research:  
One piano - eight hands." B762 Basement Class-  
room, Women's Centre, Royal Alex Hospital

## PHARMACY & PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES

December 3, 4:00 pm  
David Feeny, "Health Utilities Index (HUI): A tool for  
outcomes research." 4069 Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre

## PHILOSOPHY

November 27, 3:30 pm  
James Penner, "Incomplete Theorisation in Legal  
Reasoning: Political and Cognitive Explanations."  
4-29 Humanities Centre  
December 4, 3:30 pm  
Melissa Williams, University of Toronto, "Deliber-  
ate Impartiality: Five Models of Jury Judgement."  
L-3 Humanities Centre

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION

December 8, 12:00 pm  
Bertha Blondin, Elder, Dene Nation, NWT, "The  
future of active living and health promotion for Cana-  
da's First Nations people." E-120 Van Vliet Centre

## PHYSICS

November 27, 3:15 pm  
Jonathan Schaeffer, "One Jump Ahead: Chal-  
lenging Human Supremacy at Checkers." V-129

## PHYSIOLOGY

November 27, 3:30 pm  
David Olson & Jocelynn Cook, "Preterm Birth:  
Human Models for Animal Physiology." 207 Heritage  
Medical Research Centre  
December 11, 3:30 pm  
Mike Belosevic, "Regulation of Macrophage Anti-  
microbial Functions." 207 Heritage Medical Research  
Centre

## PSYCHOLOGY

December 4, 3:00 pm  
Terry Caelli, Ohio State University, "IGM: Interac-  
tive Graphical Models for the Interpretation of Im-  
ages." CW-410 Biological Sciences Building

## RENEWABLE RESOURCES

December 3, 12:30 pm  
David Chanasyk, "Current Agricultural Water Re-  
sources Issues in Alberta." 2-36 Earth Sciences Building

# notices

Please send notices attention Folio 400 Athabasca Hall,  
University of Alberta, T6G 2E8 or e-mail  
public.affairs@ualberta.ca. Notices should be received  
by 3 p.m. one week prior to publication.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

St. Joseph's College Ethics Centre will hold a me-  
morial service for Rev. Tom Dailey (May 1928 to Sept.  
1998) on Sat. Nov. 28, 1998, 7:30 p.m. in the St.  
Joseph's College (U of A) Chapel. Rev. Dailey was the  
founder and former director of St. Joseph's College  
Catholic Bioethics Centre and a professor of bioethics  
at St. Joseph's College.

## TUTU TICKETS FOR SIMULCAST AVAILABLE

Tickets to view a simulcast of the first annual  
University of Alberta Visiting Lectureship in Human  
Rights, delivered by Archbishop Desmond Tutu Nov.  
29 at 3 p.m., are available through Ticketmaster for  
\$6. All seats in the Jubilee Auditorium are sold out.  
More information is available on-line at  
www.ualberta.ca/~lecture.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Would you like to increase your intake of anti-  
oxidant rich foods? The Department of Agricultural,  
Food and Nutritional Science is currently looking for  
volunteers to participate in a study that compares  
antioxidant activities of a plant food concentrate ver-  
sus synthetic vitamins. If you are male, between the  
ages of 20 to 60 years old and have moderately high  
blood cholesterol, you may qualify to participate. If  
you would like more information about this study,  
please contact Vince Ziccarelli at 414-6863. Please  
leave a message.

## CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE

### DEVONIAN BOTANIC GARDEN

November 28-29  
Handmade lotions, soaps, dried floral arrange-  
ments, wreaths, potpourri, pressed flower creations  
and candles available for sale. Hours: 11-4 pm. Ad-  
mission: free.

## EXHIBITIONS

### BRUCE PEEL SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

to December 24  
"Adversaria: Sixteenth-Century Books and the  
Traces of their Readers" and "The Book of Nature: the  
Eighteenth Century & the Material World", Hours:  
Mon-Fri 8:30-4:30 pm

### PRINT STUDIES CENTRE

November 25-December 4  
"Eric Dalen: A Prairie Fiddler's Life" - an exhibit  
of photographs, instruments and memorabilia from  
the 1920's to the present. Presented by the Centre  
for Ethnomusicology. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10 to 5 pm.  
3-78 Fine Arts Building

## MUSIC

### CENTRE FOR ETHNOMUSICOLOGY

November 27, noon  
World Music Sampler - An open house featuring  
performances of music & dance from around the  
world. 2nd floor foyer, Fine Arts Building. Admission:  
free

### DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

November 28, 8:00 pm  
Music at Convocation Hall Series featuring  
Marnie Giesbrecht, Brian Jones, Tanya Prochazka and  
the University of Alberta Concert Choir, directed by  
Debra Cairns, Arts Building. Admission: \$10/adults,  
\$5/students & seniors  
November 29, 8:00 pm  
The University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra,  
directed by Malcolm Forsyth, will present works by  
Schumann, Sibelius and others. Convocation Hall,  
Arts Building. Admission: \$7/adults, \$5/students &  
seniors  
November 30, 5:00 pm, 6:45 pm and 8:15 pm  
Advent Services - Lessons and Carols featuring  
the University of Alberta Mixed Chorus, directed by  
Robert de Frece, and organist, Marnie Giesbrecht.  
Sponsored by the University of Alberta Chaplains  
Association. Convocation Hall, Arts Building. Admis-  
sion is free, but TICKETS ARE REQUIRED in ADVANCE  
Call 492-7681.  
November 30, 8:00 pm  
The University of Alberta and Grant MacEwan  
Community College Jazz Bands directed by Ray Baril  
and Tom Dust. John L Haar Theatre, GMCC. Admis-  
sion: \$7.00/adults, \$5/students & seniors. For infor-  
mation, call 497-4436.

## THEATRE

### STUDIO THEATRE

December 3-12  
"Jennie's Story" by Betty Lambert, directed by  
Paul Gelineau. For tickets, show times and informa-  
tion, call 492-2495.

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Regular Sunday Service at 6:30 p.m.  
Note: December 6, 1998 commemorates  
the Montreal Massacre. Our regular  
service on this evening will focus on this  
within the context of the service.

★★★

Advent Mid-Week Services  
(Holden Evening Prayer -  
Setting by Marty Haugen)

Wednesday, Dec 2: 1st Advent 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, Dec 9: 2nd Advent 7:30 pm  
Wednesday, Dec 16: 3rd Advent 7:30 pm

★★★

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve Service with  
Holy Communion - 7:30 pm

Christmas Day service with  
Holy Communion - 10:00 am  
(shared with Our Savior)



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# The minstrel of Managua

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

When hurricane Mitch slammed into Nicaragua, Frank Bessai, 29, quickly turned from teaching music and drama to the relief effort. Like many Canadians working with NGOs (non-governmental agencies) there, he set out to help those hardest hit. As monsoon rains pounded the capital city, Managua, and electricity flickered on and off, Bessai loaded trucks with beans and rice, powered milk and oil.

"The front of my house looked like a river, with backed-up open sewers," says Bessai, now living in Edmonton.

"The front of my house looked like a river, with backed-up open sewers," says Bessai, now living in Edmonton. "There were huge lakes by the road." When word spread about the impact on nearby communities, Bessai and his friends helped with the resettling on higher ground, and with building outhouses. Firefighters began collecting clothing and blankets for those hardest hit and radio stations stopped broadcasts to transmit messages. "Greetings from Giovanni Castillo—tell my family everything is fine," recalls Bessai.

It was a monumental end to a seven-month experience in Nicaragua for the University of Alberta Faculty of Arts



Practicing the musical "Agua elada a cinco reales"

alumnus ('91). Working as a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) intern, the golden-locked and goateed violinist, songwriter, actor and playwright taught music and theatre for "Change for Children," a non-profit organization based in Edmonton.

"The objective of the organization is to raise the self-esteem of children and youth so they feel better about themselves and have life skills to cope better," says Bessai. As children discover talents in music and drama, "they're seen in the community as artists, and therefore gain respect."

He established a music program, trained an instructor to take over, and ensured the donated, used violins were tuned and repaired for the children to use. He taught other musical groups "how to jam together and integrate music styles." He even started an all-girl band.

For those who were not musically inclined, Bessai helped them explain their



Frank Bessai jamming with music project boss Freddy Martinez in Las Torres, a poor and dangerous barrio in Managua

world through words, to those who would listen. One play was a musical based on the cries of street children selling their wares. On every street corner, in every market, and all around the *barrios* of Managua, he heard the plaintive voices of young, poor Nicaraguans: "Agua elada a cinco reales!" (Cold water—five cents) Over and over, the sing-song trademark of another hot and steamy morning could be heard, says Bessai, as he tried to round up his music class for another day of violin lessons.

The children, many of whom didn't even know what a play was, nor had the literacy skills to write one, took ownership of the cry, performed monologues mixed with songs to talk about their lives, and more important, talked about their rights as children. They even took their play "on the road," says Bessai, and performed it at the *Nueva Vita* refugee camp of about 600 families affected by the hurricane.

Despite the daily grind of poverty, "they were very happy children...very colorful people of great warmth and strength," says Bessai.

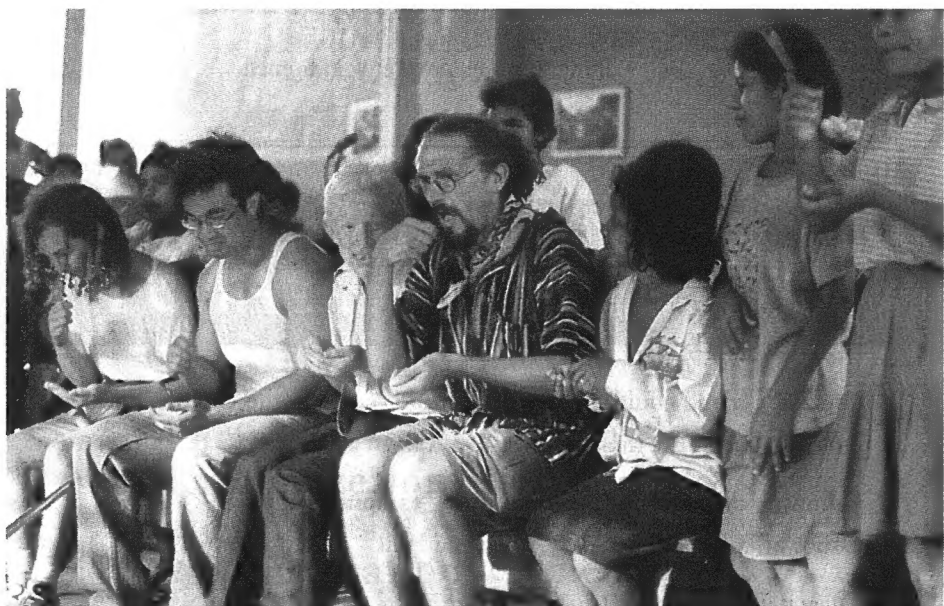
"I left some very strong things behind. I established very close relationships with the kids I was working with. They assured me they appreciated my work and would work hard to put on a concert for me when I went back," says Bessai. It's clear the multilingual Bessai has not finished his work in Nicaragua, in fact, he wants to spread his philosophy of artistic empowerment. "I believe all artists in the world have a very important role to play and have a social responsibility."

Frank Bessai encourages Edmontonians to continue their support of the Nicaraguan relief effort, particularly with the winter season ahead. To find how you can help, call Change for Children at 448-1505. ■



Music project teachers

"I left some very strong things behind. I established very close relationships with the kids I was working with. They assured me they appreciated my work and would work hard to put on a concert for me when I went back," says Bessai.



Frank Bessai with Nicaraguan children and other Canadians involved in Change for Children

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